(b) and (c) No, Sir. The statement is to be read in the context of fine-tuning the rules based on experience.

(d) and (e) The consideration of proposals for disinvestment in Central Public Sector Undertakings is a continuous process. No decision, to bring down the equity of the Government below 51% in IOC, ONGC and GAIL, has been taken.

News-Item Captioned "Government Needs Suzuki Consent to Sell Maruti Share"

1483. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Government needs Suzuki cosent to sell Maruti Share" which appeared in the Businbess standard dated 10th November, 2000;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard so as to facilitate the sell off process in the Maruti Ydyog Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE. REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has constituted a Group of secretaries to recommend optimal ways of disinvestment in Maruti Udyog Ltd. and preliminary discussions have been initiated.

Bids Received For Picking Up of equity in AI And IA

1484. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Wit! the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of bids received for picking up of equity in Air India and Indian Airlines, alongwith the details thereof;

(b) what is the number of foreign players in this bid; and

(c) by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINSTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Advisors for the transactions have received Expression of Interest offers from certain prospective partners. For Government to realize the best price, the less a bidder knows the better, about who and how many rivals he is bidding against. Government therefore shall not confirm or deny either the number of identity of potential bidders. Moreover, in terms of the initial announcement, bidders can alter their alliances right up to the stage of filling the final technical bid.

(c) No time frame for completing the transanctions can be given as the same would depend on various factors like time taken for due diligence by prospective bidders, finalization of agreements etc. It would be Government's endeavour to complete these transactions in an optimal lime frame.

White Paper on Road Map of Government Enterprise

1485. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been preparing a white Paper defining the road map of enterprises under its control;

(b) if so, whether weak PSEs would be made self-sufficient;

(c) if so, the assistance Government propose to give to such

PSEs; and

(d) by when a white Paper on each PSE is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A White Paper on the PSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry is under finalization.